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Bob Zeigler,  
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Re: written comments on SEPA # 13055 Lake and Stream Rehabilitation 2013

I wish to thank the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for this opportunity to provide written comments on the proposed rehabilitation for eastside lakes.

For decades WDFW has attempted to restore trout (which are raised and planted by WDFW) and get rid of warm-water fish in targeted lakes using Rotenone. . Thousands of dollars are spent every year on rotenone with mixed results. Past rehabs of Spectacle Lake have been unable to eliminate these species considered undesirable by WDFW fish biologists. From personnel observations I dispute the statement in the Fish Management Plan for Spectacle Lake that the 2005 fall treatment was successful. There is no way that the hundreds of 4 to 8 inch largemouth bass observed in the spring of 2006 were illegally planted. At this point in time, right or wrong, it is highly unlikely that Spectacle Lake can ever be made void of these species for any meaningful length of time as proven over and over with failed Rotenone treatments.

I recently attended a meeting conducted by the Spectacle home owners to address their concerns on the weed problem in the Lake. Landowners, Whitestone Irrigation District Representatives, WDFW fish Biologist, Okanogan County Weed Board, Resort owners, and a representative from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. A lot of concerns were brought up about the weed problem and water quality. Most if not all agreed that the weeds were a public safety issue. Also because the reservoir supplies water for approximately 3000 ac. of crop land water quality was also an important issue. It was brought up at the meeting that both a weed treatment and Rotenone treatment could not happen together and provide water quality needed for irrigation.

I have been a volunteer with the WDFW for 20 plus years and served on the GMAC for several years. I have heard the WDFW state many times that one of the agencies goals is “**Public Safety**”. The fact that the department is choosing Lake Rehab over Public Safety is confusing. 75% of the funding for the Spectacle Lake Rehab is coming from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. If the WDFW was truly concerned about Public Safety and fish they would have looked into changing the grant to habitat improvement and worked with the different groups to fund weed control first. The local Fish Biologist has been involved and aware of the local concerns about weeds for well over a year. I am very disappointed that the WDFW has chosen to go it alone with a Rotenone treatment and forgo a chance to partner with local landowners and other agencies to improve fish habitat first. The WDFW unwillingness to collaborate and work with others in these tight budget times for the common good is very disappointing to me.

The weeds are a significant problem for the fish as well as a public safety concern as evident by the fish kill on the east end of the lake every spring. Also by the loss of fingerling plant that at the boat ramp last fall that could not get past the weed matt and died (personnel observation). The local Fish Biologist was informed and aware the fish kills that have happen after the last Rotenone treatment.

Under plants in the **FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, WDFW Statewide Lake and Stream Rehabilitation Program, As funded by the USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program September 30, 2008** it state “*Improved water clarity increases the amount*

*of sunlight penetrating the water, allowing macrophytes to flourish and spread (Hanson, et al., 2006)."*  
An indirect effect of the Rotenone treatment is the increased vigor and spreading of the weeds in the Lake. With as many treatments that Spectacle Lake has received in the past the WDFW has some responsibility in the Weed problem on the lake. WDFW should consider postponing the Rotenone treatment until the Public Safety concern with weeds are taken care of. With all the swimmers and water skiers using the lake it is scary to think about them getting tangled up in the weeds and someone drowning.

I am concerned the WDFW is not following the required monitoring requirements in the **FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, WDFW Statewide Lake and Stream Rehabilitation Program, As funded by the USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program September 30, 2008,** for water quality and pre and post conditions. It tight budget times monitoring is one of the things that falls out. The Spectacle Lake management plan only talks about monitoring fish growth, angler participation and species composition. In several meeting over the past years the Local Biologist only gives personnel opinions on the weed growth and water quality changes and will never provide monitoring results. This project should not go forward if all the required monitoring by SEPA is not funded and going to be collected. Monitoring reports should be available for review by any one that is concerned at public meeting.

In conclusion I cannot support the WDFW decision to not collaborate with others to improve habitat and take care of a public safety concern. Rotenone has not worked in the past and has a low probability of success this time as well. Is the risk worth the reward? Also with declining budgets can you ensure that you will be able to complete the require monitoring so that in 7 to 10 years when this come up again you will have a monitoring report to show the effects to the water quality from the treatment.

With the head down charge forward and the hell with everyone else I have little hope that my comments have any meaning. The fact that you have chosen to disregard willing partners to fund habitat improvement is truly disappointing!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

/S/ *Rick Lind*

Rick Lind (Concerned Sportsman)